

CLAIMS

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We claim:

10 1. In a distributed computer system including a server and a client, the server including a message store, a method for delivering Web content within a body section of electronic mail messages comprising:

15 receiving at a server, at least one mail message containing an embedded hyperlink;

downloading Web content associated with the hyperlink into the message store at the server; and

20 transmitting the mail message and the corresponding Web content for display at the client.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

25 detecting, at the server, a plurality of incoming mail messages containing a common hyperlink;

tagging each incoming mail message containing the common hyperlink;

30 storing one copy of the Web content associated with the common hyperlink in the message store at the server; and

parsing the hyperlink when a tagged message is sent to the client.

35 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

compressing Web content that exceeds a predetermined size, at the server.

40 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether the client has a preset time for downloading messages containing Web content; and

in response to determining that a preset time for downloading Web content exists, caching the message and Web content at the server until the preset time is reached.

5. A distributed computer system including a server and a client, the server including a message store, for delivering Web content within a body section of electronic mail messages comprising:

means for receiving at a server, at least one mail message containing an embedded hyperlink;

means for downloading Web content associated with the hyperlink into the message store at the server; and

means for transmitting the mail message and the corresponding Web content for display at the client.

6. The system of claim 5 further comprising:

means for detecting, at the server, a plurality of incoming mail messages containing a common hyperlink;

means for tagging each incoming mail message containing the common hyperlink;

means for storing one copy of the Web content associated with the common hyperlink in the message store at the server; and

means for parsing the hyperlink when a tagged message is sent to the client.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

means for compressing Web content that exceeds a predetermined size, at the server.

8. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

means for determining whether the client has a preset time for downloading messages containing Web content; and

in response to determining that a preset time for downloading Web content exists, means for caching the message and Web content at the server until the preset time is reached.

9. A computer program product having computer code on a computer readable medium for delivering Web content within a body section of electronic mail messages comprising:

instructions for receiving at a server, at least one mail message containing an embedded hyperlink;

instructions for downloading Web content associated with the hyperlink into the message store at the server; and

instructions for transmitting the mail message and the corresponding Web content for display at the client.

10. The product of claim 9 further comprising:

instructions for detecting, at the server, a plurality of incoming mail messages containing a common hyperlink;

instructions for tagging each incoming mail message containing the common hyperlink;

instructions for storing one copy of the Web content associated with the common hyperlink in the message store at the server; and

instructions for parsing the hyperlink when a tagged message is sent to the client.

11. The product of claim 9 further comprising:

instructions for compressing Web content that exceeds a predetermined size, at the server.

12. The product of claim 9 further comprising:

instructions for determining whether the client has a preset time for downloading messages containing Web content; and

5 in response to determining that a preset time for downloading Web content exists, instructions for caching the message and Web content at the server until the preset time is reached.

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